

REMARKS

The following is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action, dated November 25, 2009, and the Advisory Action, dated February 3, 2010. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 52-68 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Drenttel (U.S. 7,124,360) in view of Butler (U.S. 6,018,340). The Examiner rejected claim 69 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Drenttel and Butler in further view of Santoro (U.S. 6,724,403). The Examiner rejected claim 70 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Drenttel and Butler in further view of DeStefano (U.S. 6,075,531). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Rejections under §103(a)

Claim 52, as amended, recites the limitations of including two application windows within the first window area. Amended claim 52 also recites the limitations of the first window area having no internal boundaries that further divide the first window area. Support for these limitations can be found at, among other places, paragraphs [0022], [0026], and Figures 2-3 of the present application. The cited references fail to teach or suggest each of these limitations.

Drenttel discloses a technique for dividing a display screen into "sections." One example of a template for organizing multiple sections is shown in Figure 2Aa of Drenttel. The template shown in Figure 2Aa includes three sections: one horizontal section that stretches the width of the display screen and two smaller sections 50 above the horizontal section. In the Advisory Action, the Examiner argues that Drenttel discloses the limitations of associating the first application window and the second application window with the first window area, as recited in claim 52, "because there are at least two areas 50 in the window area 30, and each area 50 can be configured by the user to associate with an application window" (Final Office Action at page 8). The technique disclosed in Drenttel of dividing section 30 (shown in Figure 2A of Drenttel) into two separate sections 50 (shown in Figure 2Aa of Drenttel) is not equivalent to the claimed technique because a boundary exists between the sections 50. In contrast, amended claim 52 now expressly requires that the first window area has no internal boundaries that further divide the first window area.

Each of Butler, Santoro, and DeStefano fails to cure the deficiencies of Drenttel discussed above.

Second, the cited references fail to teach or suggest the limitations of the first window area partially overlapping the second window area within the at least two computer displays, as recited in amended claim 52. The Examiner admits that Drenttel and Butler fail to teach or suggest these limitations and, instead, relies on Santoro. Santoro discloses a technique for partitioning a visual display of a computer into tiles. The Examiner argues that the limitations of the first window area partially overlapping the second window area are disclosed at col. 9, lines 54-56 of Santoro, which state that "[d]ouble-clicking tile 410 causes the audio stream to become audible over the appropriate channel of the system" (emphasis added). As persons having ordinary skill in the art would surely understand, audio that is audible over a channel is not functionally equivalent to a first window area partially overlapping a second window area within at least two computer displays, as expressly recited in claim 1. In fact, Santoro expressly states that the tiles, such as the tiles shown in Figure 1 of Santoro, do not overlap: "[t]he present invention comprises ... partitioning a visual display of a computer into an array of tiles in a non-overlapping configuration" (emphasis added).

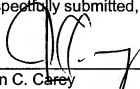
DeStefano fails to cure the deficiencies of Drenttel discussed above.

As the foregoing illustrates, the combination of the cited references fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of amended claim 52. Therefore, the cited references cannot render amended claim 52 obvious. For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 52 is allowable over the cited references and requests allowance of the claim. Furthermore, independent claims 60 and 68 are amended to recite limitations similar to those of amended claim 52. Therefore, claims 60 and 68 are allowable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 52. The remaining claims depend from allowable claims 52, 60, and 68 and are therefore also allowable.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, Applicants believe that they have overcome all of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action dated November 25, 2009, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



John C. Carey
Registration No. 51,530
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant